

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has added new Claims 11 – 18 to overcome the rejection and further specify the embodiments of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the new claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112 SECOND PARAGRAPH:

Claims 6 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 6 and 10 clearly define the invention as shown in Fig. 4. In Fig. 4, the convex surface (6c) and conclave surface (6d) are generally orthogonal to the plasma irradiating direction shown as the arrow. The support can be found on page 24, last paragraph of the specification.

Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is incorrect. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 4, 6, 8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Tanaka (US 6,730,385).

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. More specifically, Claims 4, 6, 8 and

10 include the features that “the packing is attached to a packing installation groove provided in an installation member, and the plasma seal is attached to a plasma irradiation side of the same installation groove in a compressed state”. Tanaka does not teach or discloses these features.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Tanaka does not include the description about the effect to prevent an O-ring/packing from protruding to a gap at the vacuum side as shown in the embodiments of the present invention.

Furthermore, Tanaka does not disclose or suggest an apparatus for manufacturing a semiconductor device by irradiating plasma with using a plasma resistant seal as defined in new Claims 11 – 18.

Therefore, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by Tanaka and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 3 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Winters (US 6,165,313) in view of Russell (US 2,862,736). Claims 5 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Winters.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the embodiments of present-claimed invention are not obvious over cited references. According to MPEP 2143.01, the mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990). There is nothing in Winters or Russell suggesting the desirability of the combination. In addition,

Winters does not disclose nor suggest a concave surface facing a bottom of the groove as admitted by the Examiner.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Winters nor Russell include the description about the effect to prevent an O-ring/packing from protruding to a gap at the vacuum side as shown in the embodiments of the present invention.

Furthermore, neither Winters nor Russell disclose or suggest an apparatus for manufacturing a semiconductor device by irradiating plasma with using a plasma resistant seal as defined in new Claims 11 – 18.

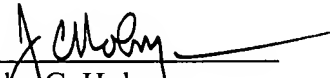
In summary, the newly presented claims are not obvious over Winters in view of Russell. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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